REMARKS

Election/Restriction

Claims 1-41 are pending. The Office is requiring Applicants to restrict these claims to one of the following groups of inventions:

Group I: Claims 1-7 and 18-29.
Group II: Claims 8-17 and 30-41.

Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, to prosecute the Group II inventions (Claims 8-17 and 30-41) drawn to a method of improving quality of life in an individual in need thereof.

Applicants' reasons for traverse are the following:

Each of the pending claims is directed to a method of treatment, prevention or improvement comprising the administration of an aldosterone receptor antagonist. A search of one restriction group likely will overlap with a search of the other restriction group. Accordingly, it would not be unduly burdensome on the Office to collectively search the restriction groups.

For these reasons the restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

As requested in the Office action, Applicants further provisionally elect, with traverse, species "e" of Group II: "the quality of life is improved in a patient suffering from heart disease".
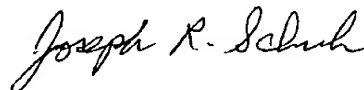
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As requested in the Office Action, Applicants further list the following group of pending claims from Group II that read on the elected species:

Claims 8-17 and 30-41.

The elected Claims should now be in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and early allowance of these claims is requested. Applicants respectfully request a five-month extension of time to and including June 4, 2004 for filing a response to the December 4, 2003 Office Action in this matter. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the $2,010.00 fee for the requested five-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, together with any fees that may be required during the entire pendency of this application, to Deposit Account No. 19-1025.

Respectfully submitted,

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